

man is morally irresponsible at the present time Judge Sanderson can send him to a prison for the criminal insane, or, until such time as he becomes sane, when he can be placed on trial for the crime and a death sentence imposed. The District Attorney was asked today: "Do you consider Richeson insane?"

"No, he is no more insane than you or I."

"Then you do not consider his confession the ravings of an insane man?"

"No."

"Then you do not consider that the defense will take the confession as the ravings of an insane man and base its defense upon insanity?"

"I do not think," replied Mr. Pelletier, "that reputable counsel in a case of this kind and importance would give out a statement that Richeson had confessed his guilt if they considered him insane."

"Will the case come into court for disposition before January 15, the date set for trial?"

"It may."

"Did you know that Richeson had confessed before you were informed by the newspaper men?"

"I prefer not to discuss that matter. I would prefer to have Mr. Lee or Mr. Morse, counsel for Richeson, make statements about that matter."

RICHESON SPEARS OF A LIFE IN PRISON.

It is evident from a reading of Richeson's confession that he has some belief that he may escape the electric chair, as he refers therein to it, within some prison walls. The confession is a bold statement of the clergyman's guilt as charged in the indictment.

This paper, which was a lengthy affair, drawn with extreme care to obliterate any possible loopholes, charges that Richeson on October 14 last did "send, convey or give in some way and manner, for the purpose of his malice aforethought, to Miss Linnell, a quantity of cyanide of potassium, pretending to be a medicinal preparation, for the purpose of her death."

This was the statement of the prosecution when the evidence was presented to the Suffolk county Grand Jury sitting in special session. It was asserted by the police that Richeson, finding that the date of his marriage, October 31, to Miss Violet Edmunds of a wealthy Brooklyn family was close at hand, deemed it necessary to plot Miss Linnell out of the way.

CONFESSED CAUSE OF DEATH.

It was Richeson's confession that caused him to confess. That he was a man of deep religious feeling is revealed in the remarkable statement he sent to the District Attorney. It is interesting to note, however, that the clergyman must have felt the quality of conscience quite recently. In his last public statement, a letter of resignation to the Cambridge church of which he was pastor, Richeson wrote under date of November 2:

"Strong in the consciousness of my innocence and firmly persuaded that God in His own good time will lift this burden from me, I nevertheless feel that I should not permit the shadow thrown across my life to darken the religious welfare of my church and of its people whom I have loved and whom I feel duty to place the church in a position to select my successor."

The mere sending of the confession to the District Attorney does not of itself convict Richeson. Cases have been known where accused persons have made confessions of crimes, which did not come and therefore devolved upon the District Attorney to proceed to trial.

MURDER MUST BE PROVED.

Under the law of Massachusetts a confession cannot be accepted as waiving the necessity of proof in a case of murder. In the first degree, consequently the District Attorney will be required to lay his evidence before a jury and secure a conviction. The confession, however, is an unequivocal acknowledgment of guilt, will be placed before the jury with enough collateral facts to connect it with the charges against him, and a verdict in accordance with the confession will follow.

CAN BE PUT TO DEATH ON PLEA OF GUILTY.

The question of whether Richeson can be sentenced to death upon a plea of guilty of murder has been the subject of a bill introduced by the late Senator W. Green, of Cambridge, who at that time was a member of the Senate at Malden. Green confessed to the killing and when arraigned before Judge Hoar in the Supreme Court, which then had jurisdiction of murder cases, pleaded guilty to murder in the first degree and Judge Hoar sentenced him to hang.

Gov. Andrew refused to sign the death warrant on the ground that a man accused of murder could not waive his constitutional right to be tried by a jury. This led to a remarkable controversy with the Supreme Court, which sustained the action of Judge Hoar. Gov. Andrew's refusal to sign the death warrant was sustained by the Supreme Court.

Since that time, however, it has been a custom in the State to accept a plea of guilty of murder in the first degree and to require a defendant to undergo a jury trial. Upon the decision on the Green case it would be in the power of Judge Sanderson to accept a plea of guilty of murder in the first degree from Richeson and to sentence him to die.

Attorney Lee, following the issuance of the confession, to day said:

NO INDEMNITY TO CONFESS.

"This confession was voluntary. It was not the result of inducements or any expectation of reward. It was made by a man who was sane and who was not burdened himself as he did because it did him good."

He has thrown himself upon the mercy of the court. He is not a criminal, but he has done it. The confession was written by himself and in his own hand. He wrote it on a table in his cell with a fountain pen, and he signed it during the visit of myself and Mr. Morse."

"The confession was inevitable. I have had more than 150 murder cases, but this case was the most interesting of them. It was a singular case of affairs. I think this the best solution."

As to further procedure, you will have to see the District Attorney. I cannot state whether the conference at the District Attorney's office last night had anything to do with the confession. According to Richeson's lawyers, they had known all along that there was no other course open to the clergyman, but an admission of guilt. But not until the last ray of hope had vanished would either Mr. Lee or Mr. Morse consent to Richeson confessing. For days he has been battling with his conscience, and when his counsel visited him yesterday Richeson voluntarily offered to confess to the murder of Miss Linnell and to throw himself upon the mercy of the court.

DETERMINED ON CONFESSING FINALLY.

But on Wednesday his mental condition was such that his defenders would not accept his wish because of his agitated frame of mind and the fact that he had not until he should become more composed.

Yesterday, however, Richeson was calm and precise. He had undoubtedly given the matter of complete and full confession cool and deliberate consideration. When his lawyers called he said he knew full well what he was doing and that he was conscious and free himself of the burden he has carried since October 14.

Both Lee and Morse tried to dissuade him from his purpose, believing perhaps he was laboring under a mental strain that had weakened his reasoning powers. But Richeson was insistent. He insisted to his lawyers that he must set himself right before God.

He would confess he must. If his

own lawyers would not accept his terms he would execute his confession to become public anyway.

So it was that at 2 o'clock on Friday afternoon, the accused clergyman sat down at the table in his cell and penned the confession.

With a good deal of exactness Richeson wrote the three pages of manuscript. When the statement was completed he handed it over to his lawyers.

They read it and asked him to make a copy.

"Certainly," replied Richeson. Before he started to write the copy it was explained to him that the copy he was about to make would be presented to the District Attorney.

Attorneys Lee and Morse waited for some further word. It was Richeson himself who broke the silence.

Thank God, I have ceased my conscience of that load. Now I am ready to atone for my sin.

He sat back on his bed and covered his face with his hands. But a little later he sat bolt upright, smiled and as the lawyers turned to take their departure he stood up.

THE CLERGYMAN WON'T COMMENT.

Moses Grant Edmunds, father of Violet Edmunds, when asked to comment on the Richeson confession this afternoon refused to discuss the case in a manner.

Mr. Edmunds would neither affirm nor deny that the family had learned of the confession, and to every question made the reply:

"We have nothing to say, absolutely nothing."

Miss William J. McLean of Brooklyn, sister of the clergyman's confession, said she was glad the Confessing clergyman had made it, inasmuch as it would do away with a long drawn out trial, which would have surely resulted, for her mother's sake she regretted the publicity necessary in such a proceeding.

William J. McLean, husband of Mrs. McLean and the man to whom the medical examiner gave credit for having guessed from the manner and cause of Miss Linnell's death that it was not a case of suicide, was anxious to know what disposition would now be made of the case.

HYANNIS SURPRISED.

The news that Richeson had made a confession that he murdered Miss Linnell was received at Hyannis with considerable surprise by a majority of the residents. While practically all of the residents of the town, nearly all of whom were well acquainted with the minister when he was pastor here, were of the opinion that he was responsible for Miss Linnell's death, they expected that he would make a defense based on the supposed insanity of the state to prove that he gave Miss Linnell the cyanide of potassium which ended her life.

There was little sympathy for Richeson in Hyannis after the statement made by William Hahn that he sold the poison to the minister and Richeson's effigy was hanged from a tree in the yard of his former church at that town.

Helen Linnell, a sister of Miss Linnell, said: "It is a good thing that he has confessed. I felt sure that he was the guilty one from the beginning."

Mr. Linnell was so overcome at the news of the confession that he was unable to say anything.

CHARLES E. CUMMINGS, the clerk of the Emmanuel Baptist Church, of which Richeson was pastor, was willing to say that he was glad, since Richeson apparently is now a free man, that the tragedy cleared without an extended trial.

"Such a trial," said the clerk, "would have been bad for our society, for churches in general and for the community. I do not think that the people in the Emmanuel Church who still believe Mr. Richeson guilty are in the majority; many had faith in him for a time, but it is certain that some of them have lost faith with the progress of events. To those who have stood by him till this time the news of his confession will be a great shock."

I do not see that the church will take any action in the matter. In fact, I do not believe that there is any action for us to take. Mr. Richeson has resigned, and we have accepted his resignation. As far as he is concerned, his active association with our church is severed and has been for several weeks.

Edward S. Watson, treasurer of the church, said:

"The news is somewhat astounding. On the one hand, I am glad that the confession was made, and on the other hand, I am sorry that it was made. I talked over church matters with him, but neither he nor I referred to this matter. He looked me straight in the eye during all our conversations with him."

HISTORY OF THE CRIME.

Richeson a Man Whose Behavior Had Persistently Excited Distrust.

The career of the preacher who has confessed to the poisoning of Miss Linnell contained episodes that had secured for him the distrust, suspicion or positive dislike of people that knew him well. He excelled in college examinations. His manner was pleasant, but his personality was decidedly unbecoming on the part of a minister of the Gospel. He was a student of the college of the Holy Trinity, and of consulting sporting propensities under a minister's habit.

With such stories following him Richeson went to Massachusetts and entered the Newton Theological Seminary for a post-graduate course in the Old Testament. It was while he was a student there that he met Miss Linnell, the pretty daughter of Edgar Linnell, a contractor of Hyannis.

Richeson was tall, handsome and of striking personality. Miss Linnell's friends found out very quickly that they were in love with Richeson. By 1909 when he was graduated from the theological seminary, it was common talk that Richeson and Miss Linnell were engaged. There was no formal announcement, but Miss Linnell was wearing an engagement ring and her girl acquaintances were told that it was the token of her betrothal to Richeson.

After leaving the seminary the young preacher accepted a call to the pulpit of the Hyannis Baptist Church. It was about this time that the rumor was circulated that the engagement between Richeson and Miss Linnell had been broken. The story was prompted in part by the preacher's attentions to Miss Violet Edmunds, the daughter of Moses Grant Edmunds, a wealthy resident of the Chestnut Hill section of Brooklyn, Mass.

In June, 1910, Richeson gave up the pastorate of the Hyannis church to become pastor of the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Cambridge, Mass.

After Richeson left Hyannis Miss Linnell went to Boston to study vocal and piano music at the New England Conservatory.

In the summer of 1911 Miss Linnell returned to her home in Hyannis and Richeson took a vacation, part of which was spent at her home. He was then a member of the Hyannis Baptist Church, and he was in company with Miss Violet Edmunds.

He returned to Cambridge in September and resumed his pulpit duties. At the same time he resumed his connection with the Hyannis Baptist Church, and he began to call on her again and often took her to lunch.

The last time he was seen with her was at lunch on the day she died of cyanide poisoning in her room at the Young Women's Christian Association. That was on October 14, 1911.

On that evening Miss Linnell seemed to be in a happy frame of mind. She had supper early and retired at once to her room. Her friends heard sounds of music and singing when they passed her door. Miss Linnell was found unconscious in a chair with her feet and ankles immersed in hot water. Miss Julia C. Patterson, superintendent of the Young Women's Christian Association, summoned Dr. Mary Hobart, who after a glance at the unconscious girl said:

"There is her fiancé. Get him here at once. This is the place for him."

Dr. Hobart called for an ambulance from the City Hospital, but before it came Miss Linnell was dead. Miss Linnell's fiancé finally got the Rev. Mr. Richeson on the phone.

"This is Miss Hanscomb," she said, "at

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Fifth Avenue at 46th Street

ONE DEAD, FIVE HURT TO PUT LIMIT ON

IN TROLLEY ACCIDENT BANK OWNERSHIP

Car Runs Wild After Motorman

Falls From His Post on

the Platform.

SHUNTED OFF ITS TRACKS

Conductor Crushed Under the Car

—All But One in It

Were Injured.

A Brooklyn Rapid Transit conductor

was killed and five passengers, one of

them a woman, were hurt at midnight

last night when a surface car of the

Sixteenth avenue line shot from the rails at

Sixteenth and Gravesend avenues, after

it had run along for five blocks without

a motorman.

As the car was crossing Forty-seventh

street a man came running from the

sidewalk and tried to board it while it

was in motion. The motorman leaped

from his place and stuck his hand out

to seize the man just as the car

started. The man was thrown

under the car and was killed. The

motorman leaped too far and a

part of the car knocked him into the

street.

The conductor did not see the

man fall. The car went right along until

it came to Gravesend avenue, where there

is a switch. At the switch the wheels

stuck to the rails, but the body of the car

leaped ahead in a straight line and the

front end was smashed against the

tracks. The car had only five passengers

and all were hurt. Police from the

Parkville station, pulled out the

injured and the injured travelers.

The conductor was dead. The injured were

taken to the City Island Hospital.

All the passengers were more or less

cut and bruised. They were Mr. and

Walter Logan of 365 Third street, Brook-

lyn; Miss Cora Steward, 743 Union street;

High 1 Moore, a lumber inspector of

315 Seventh avenue, Brooklyn, and H. S.

Francis, address unknown.

At 1 o'clock the ambulance surgeons

hadn't decided how badly cut they

were injured. Miss Steward seemed to

be the worst hurt. Motorman James

Hughes was hurt slightly when he fell

off the car.

The dead conductor was Fred Plougher,

36 years old, who lived in Thirty-third

street, Brooklyn. He was crushed under

the car.

TOO MUCH DUNCAN VISIBLE.

French Landlord Tired of New York

Semi-Nudity Advocate.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, Jan. 6. Raymond Duncan, who

is well known in the United States be-

cause of the Greek clothes affected by

himself and his wife and child, got into

the courts here to-day through his pecu-

liar costumes.

The proprietor of a residential flat

addressed an urgent request to the civil

courts for a warrant which would permit

him to expel from the building a "mascu-

line person who saunters up and down the

stairs and in the lift with naked arms and

naked legs which almost reveal his hips."

This exposure goes on all day and is

causing the mothers and daughters who

occupy the houses to blush and flee."

According to the application of the pro-

prio-

retor.

The aforesaid person was Raymond

Duncan, who was haled to court, and

was injured there in his bare feet. He gave

himself a lengthy speech in favor of

semi-nudity.

The request of the Judge the pro-

prio-

retor asked to grant Duncan a week's

time in which to get out.

Speaker Clark Better.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6. Speaker Champ-

Clark, who has been confined to his bed

with a severe cold since yesterday, is

improving. The Speaker expects to

return to the capital Monday and to